

21 September 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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21 September 1964

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

25X1

- [Redacted]
2. South Vietnam: Tribal uprising adds to government's problems. (Page 2)
 3. Indonesia-Malaysia: Djakarta shows interest in new round of negotiations. (Page 4)

- [Redacted]
5. Bolivia: The country is reported quiet following suppression of an alleged plot to overthrow President Paz. (Page 6)
 6. Notes: Congo; Communist China - Argentina; South Korea - Japan. (Page 7)

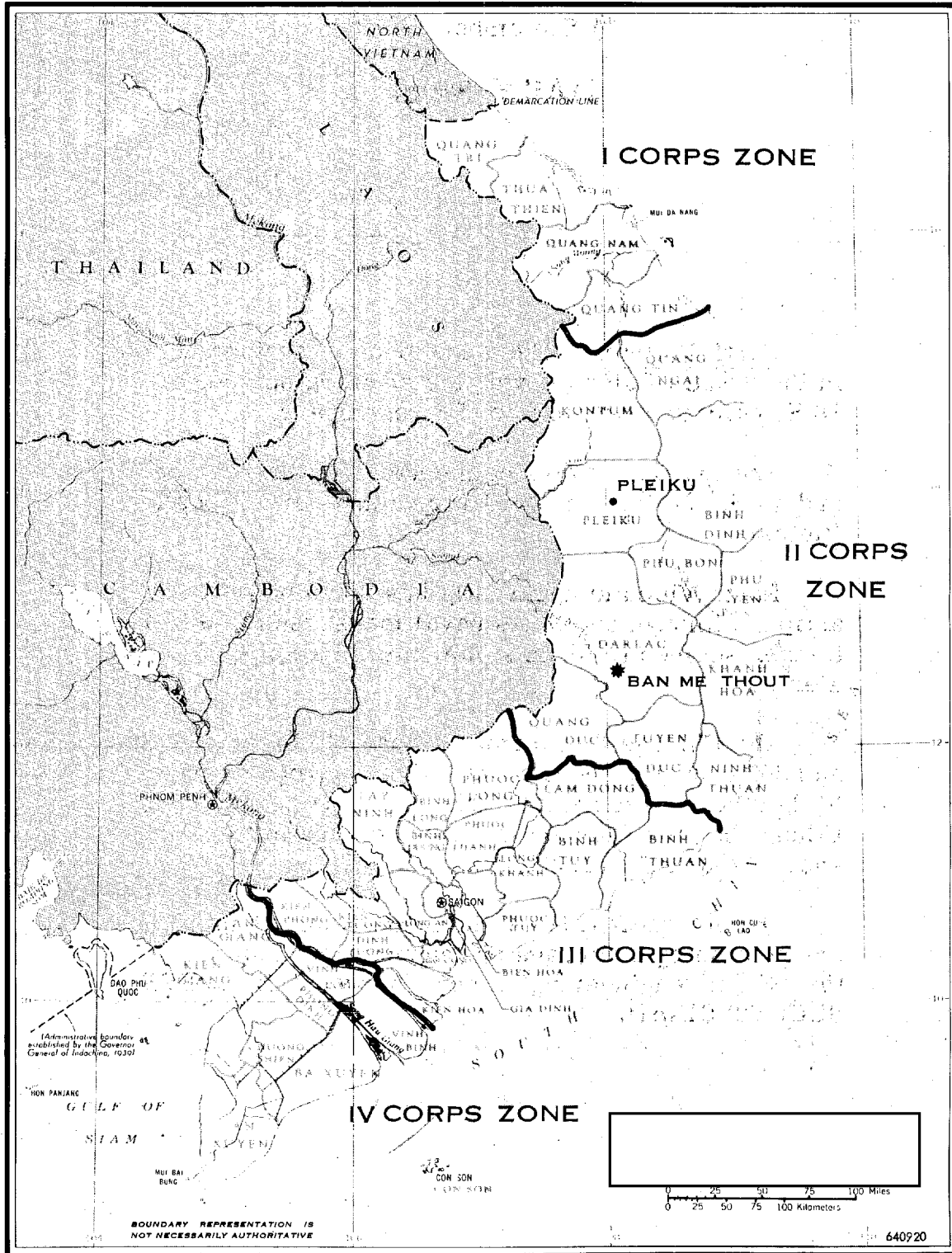
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South Vietnam

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*South Vietnam: A tribal uprising in the central highlands has created new problems for the government.

Rhade and Muong tribesmen serving as strike force elements in four Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camps in Darlac and Quang Duc Provinces yesterday staged an apparently co-ordinated revolt against the government. The rebellious forces seized the radio station serving Ban Me Thuot, the capital of Darlac, as well as a nearby ammunition dump. Another group reportedly seized control of a district headquarters in northern Quang Duc Province.

[At two of the camps, the tribesmen reportedly killed Vietnamese Special Forces personnel. Tribal strike force elements from another camp moved out to attack a nearby Popular Force unit, killing 13 men. At all four camps US Special Force advisors were placed under varying forms of restraint, although none are known to have been harmed.]

Leaflets circulated by the rebels complain of ten years of mistreatment by the Vietnamese and demand autonomy for all tribesmen. The tracts also state that the Vietnamese are being aided by US "imperialism," suggesting possible Viet Cong inspiration.

Negotiations yesterday between local government authorities and rebel leaders led to the withdrawal of tribesmen from the immediate environs of Ban Me Thuot. There is no firm indication, however, that the tribesmen are ready to end their uprising. General Co, the new II Corps commander, was to have met with them last night in an effort to elicit more precise rebel terms. Meanwhile, the government was reportedly reinforcing the three ARVN battalions now in Darlac.

21 Sept 64

DAILY BRIEF

2

[At one time there were about 10,000 Rhade under arms in Darlac Province, but the number has since been considerably reduced as the result of a government demobilization program. The Rhade, along with the Muong and other tribes in the highlands, have long aspired to autonomy and resented spasmodic Vietnamese efforts to assimilate them. They have been increasingly restive during the past 18 months because of efforts to bring CIDG strike force elements and armed Rhade village defenders under greater local governmental control.]

In Saigon, General Minh is continuing his consultations with religious and political leaders regarding composition of the Supreme National Council. He told reporters the membership of this body, which is to help prepare the country for civilian rule, will be announced sometime this week.

The Vietnamese Labor Confederation launched a general strike in the Saigon area this morning paralyzing electrical, transport, water, and communications services. The strike involved approximately 60,000 workers and was scheduled to last 48 hours. While the strikers are protesting wages and working conditions, labor leaders are also making political demands. There are no signs that the government plans to take stern measures to put down the strike which is illegal under the current state of emergency.

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Indonesia-Malaysia: Indonesia is showing renewed interest in negotiating its dispute with Malaysia.

In recent talks with the US ambassador, Sukarno urged that the US become more active in encouraging a peaceful settlement. On 19 September a joint communiqué issued at the end of talks between Sukarno and Pakistani President Ayub Khan in Rawalpindi called for consideration of the dispute by an Afro-Asian conciliation commission.

[Earlier, in Bangkok, Sukarno told Thai officials he would abide by recommendations of such a commission, and would refrain from using force while talks were in progress. He stated, however, he would withdraw Indonesian forces from Malaysia only if the withdrawal were keyed to progress in the talks.]

[Foreign Minister Subandrio, who accompanied Sukarno to Thailand, claimed that contacts in various capitals were working to establish communication among Indonesia, Malaysia, and the UK.]

Indonesia has consistently followed a policy aimed at breaking up Malaysia and removing all Western presence in the area. It has undertaken military and political subversion to create tension and disunity in Malaysia. It has also intermittently offered to negotiate the dispute, particularly when its military program was going badly.

In any new round of negotiations, Djakarta can be expected to continue pressing Malaysia to agree to a plebiscite in Malaysian Borneo to determine whether political sentiment there is in favor of the Malaysian federation. Previous negotiations, however, have failed because the Indonesians have re-

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21 Sept 64

DAILY BRIEF

4

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*Bolivia: Bolivia is reported to be quiet following the discovery and suppression yesterday of an alleged plot to overthrow President Paz.

Details regarding the plot are not known at this time. The government may have invented the plot as an excuse to move against the opposition elements led by former president Siles Zuazo before they took advantage of widespread labor unrest to provoke anti-government violence.

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[redacted] all of the opposition leaders jailed under the state of siege imposed yesterday, will be exiled to Paraguay. Juan Lechin, former vice-president and leader of Bolivia's tin miners, reportedly is still at large. If he should reach the mine areas, further trouble can be expected.

25X1

21 Sept 64

DAILY BRIEF

6

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25X1

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NOTES

Congo: [The meeting of the Organization of African Unity's ad hoc commission on the Congo, which convened in Nairobi on 18 September, seems to have gone well so far for Premier Tshombé. Kenyan Prime Minister Kenyatta, the commission's chairman, apparently has adopted a friendly attitude toward Tshombé. Kenyan police are also said to have thwarted an attempt by Congolese rebel representatives to enter the conference hall uninvited.]

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[Redacted]

Communist China - Argentina: Communist China has agreed to purchase one million tons of Argentine wheat over the next three years. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Under the terms of this deal, 400,000 tons will be delivered to China later this year, and 300,000 tons annually in 1965 and 1966. Peiping has now contracted for about six million tons of grain this year, compared to last year's total of about 5.7 million tons. Negotiations for additional grain purchases, presumably for next year, are under way with France, Canada, and Australia.

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[Redacted]

South Korea - Japan: South Korea is stepping up seizures of Japanese fishing boats, some in territorial waters but others in international waters which Seoul has unilaterally reserved for Korean fishermen. This is likely to strengthen sentiment in Tokyo against normalizing relations with South Korea. Although South Korean President Pak Chong-hui recognizes the economic benefits of a settlement with Japan, he is apparently unwilling to antagonize the public by ignoring the large number of Japanese boats operating near Korean shores. [Redacted]

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